



Gazebo Gazette

Who's a Rising Star

Undoubtably we are all rising stars but some of us have been shining a little more brightly these past few months. Jennifer Walls, an Information Technology Specialist at Southern Arizona Support Office (SOAR), received a Star Award in May for being a "valued member" of the staff. During her time as an IT Intake at SOAR, Jennifer has accomplished much more than expected. When Jennifer arrived at her host park, staff thought they would be required to spend time training her. Not the case with Jennifer, "she hit the ground running and hasn't stopped". Her hard work and professional personality have been key in the "ability to handle any problems that come up".

Soaring the Alaskan skies is how Concessions Specialist, Michael Groomer of Katmai, Lake Clark, Aniakchak and the Alganik Wild River, spends his days traveling to meetings. The meetings are "mandatory for all commercial operators" wishing to conduct business in our parks. As a Concessions Specialist Michael, along with others, decide what is necessary and appropriate for our parks, in terms of offered services and sales. With this as his goal, Michael has flown in a float plane, navigated a boat and effortlessly split the waters in a kayak. With recreation as reoccurring theme in our parks it is important to understand these services to ensure that our natural and cultural resources are being protected.

Speaking of protection, Derek Anderson, Natchez Trace Parkway, Marty Budzynski, Cape Lookout NS, Gail Mullen, Point Reyes NS and Grant Stolhand, Colonial NHP, have successfully completed FLETC. These Law Enforcement-Resource Protection Rangers have endured weeks of arduous physical and mental challenges. Now more substantially equipped in areas such as resource violations, criminal activity and warning signs, our four are ready to hit the streets to protect both visitors and our park's resources. A special note goes out to Grant



Concessions Specialist, Michael Groomer, just in for a landing at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Alaska.

Stolhand for his exemplary work in achieving the Director's Award for highest overall average of integrated training phases.

Congratulations to Fonce'

Montquest Simmons-Bates, Budget Analyst, Yosemite NP, for landing a new position as Budget Analyst for New Orleans Jazz NHP, in Louisiana. And congratulations to Rena Fugate, Budget Analyst, Mesa Verde NP, for landing a new position as Intermountain Regions Competitive Sourcing Study Team Coordinator.

Eric Weisman has been telling the tales of the American West on Amtrak's Southwest Chief. The Southwest Chief begins her journey in Chicago, traveling west where she stops in La Junta, CO, just outside of Bent's Old Fort NHS, where Eric is an Interpretive Ranger. From La Junta the train travels to Albuquerque, NM. On the way to Albuquerque, volunteers that have been

recruited and trained by Eric, tell the story of the regions natural and cultural heritage through a program called Trails and Rails. Trails and Rails is an initiative to tell stories of natural and cultural history while traveling on Amtrak trains. The partnership between the National Park Service and Amtrak has created new and innovative ways to encourage educators in methods of education outside of the traditional classroom settings.

Keep up the good work class of 2003. Remember to keep the Service fresh.

Friendly Substitutes...

Harsh chemicals eventually reach streams and ground water, potentially harming you and me. Try using chemicals less often or replace with non-toxic chemical

alternatives listed below:

ALL PURPOSE CLEANER Add a cup of vinegar to pail of water or mix liquid castile soap and baking soda or borax in like amounts to two-gallon bucket.

ABRASIVE CLEANER Rub area with ½ lemon dipped in borax.

COPPER CLEANER Try paste of lemon juice, salt and flour.

DEODORIZER Sprinkle carpet with baking soda and vacuum 30 minutes later. Place baking soda at the bottom of garbage cans and cat boxes.

DISH DETERGENTS Use mild biodegradable vegetable oil-based soap or detergent.

FLOOR OR FURNITURE POLISH Use one part lemon, 2 parts olive or vegetable oil. Revitalize old furniture with linseed oil.

GLASS CLEANER Use one part vinegar to every four parts water, or if needed add 3 teaspoons of ammonia to ¼ cup of water.

LAUNDRY DETERGENT Combine two tablespoons household ammonia, a teaspoon liquid soap and a pint of warm water for spray and wash.

LINOLEUM/VINYL FLOOR CLEANER Mop with one cup of white vinegar mixed with to gallons of water to remove dull greasy film. Use toothpaste to remove scuff marks.

MILDEW REMOVER Combine lemon juice (or white vinegar) with salt.

OVEN CLEANER Mix two teaspoons of borax and 2 teaspoons of liquid soap in a spray bottle of water and scrub. Or try baking soda and steel wool

PESTICIDES Combine 2.5 teaspoons of liquid with one-cup vegetable oil in a gallon of water for garden pests. Call your local Cooperative Extension Service for the latest ideas. For roaches and ants apply boric acid dust to cracks and entry points (keep children and pets away to avoid nausea.)

SILVER POLISH Soak in boiling water with baking soda, salt and a piece of aluminum.

STAINLESS STEEL Use baking soda or mineral oil for shine

Now you may be asking yourself "where would I find these items?" Check your local grocery, most items are right there on the shelves. These alternative cleaners may require additional physical effort but isn't a cleaner environment worth it?

Natural and Cultural Resources Unite!

By: Celeste Dixon

There have been some noticeable changes in the landscape at Gaine's Mill site of Richmond National Battlefield. The site includes 60 acres around the Watt House, scene of some of the fiercest fighting during the June 27 battle, the third of the coined, Seven Days Battle. Using the recently published *Cultural Landscape Report* (CLR) and *Archeological Survey* the park is attempting to restore the landscape so that it reflects, as closely as possible, what soldiers on the battlefield saw in 1862. Using the CLR as a guide, lands near the Watt house have been cleared and a new fence follows the trace of a historic road that wound its way past the Watt family home.

One major difference between the 1862 appearance and today is the presence of increased vegetation. Historic records show that the ground surrounding the Watt House was much more open in 1862. Two acres had been cleared in 2000. One of the acres of the restored landscape surrounds the Watt House. According to Kristen Gournaris Allen, the park's Resource Management Specialist, clearing this land created a special challenge because the vegetation was dense; Tree of Heaven, Asiatic Bittersweet and Japanese Honeysuckle. However, the challenge was well worth the effort. Not only were the plants historically incorrect but they were a large seed source for exotic, invasive species. This made the restoration effort a win/win situation for both cultural and natural resources. This project was an excellent interdisciplinary effort, since often the two aspects of preservation are at odds with each other.

Clearing the ground involved a three-part process of applying herbicide, conducting a controlled burn and then another application of herbicide. Once the bulk of the vegetation had been removed the park contracted the removal of trees and vines and burned the remaining brush.

West of the Watt House, park employees, Alecia Clark (left) and Beverly Bruce (right) align a worm rail fence, another historic landscape rehabilitation effort at Gaine's Mill, Richmond National Battlefield.

All these activities followed Park Service guidelines and Federal Regulations but most importantly the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA requires any federal agency to conduct a series of steps and procedures. The steps and procedures ensure that during the planning process factors such as air quality, water quality, plant and animal communities and soils will not be significantly impacted.

Richmond's NEPA processes concluded that there were no significant impacts to the environment.

Building the fence also presented a challenge to the park's maintenance staff. Jim Hedges, Maintenance Supervisor, who oversaw the project, stated that the materials and designs to complete the project were created by landscape architects from Park Service's, Harpers Ferry Design Center. The typical materials used for fencing during the 1862 time period were quartered oak or black locust spikes. The physical construction of the fences was not difficult however the combined effort required dedication by all parties involved. There were several factors to be considered as the fence went into place; ensuring it was sturdy, alignment with the historic road trace and making sure it was straight. There were also trees that needed to be cleared on the west-end of the fence that joins the tree line. According to Alecia Clark, one large tree almost had to be removed but they were able to save it. The fence has created more work for the maintenance staff, who now trim around the rails opposed to just cutting grass in the field but it is satisfying for them to see the landscape reflect a the more historic scene of 1862.

Making the changes has been a long process for the park staff. It has involved much work but it is part of the ongoing responsibility to not only protect the battlefields "for the enjoyment of future generations" but keep them true to the historic scene.



What's Happening in Your Park?

By Maria Elena Forte

The Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) located in Frederick, Maryland has been in the preservation business since 1977. HPTC not only trains NPS personnel in the skills of historic preservation but also actively preserves historic structures. They manage this task without base funding. Every project that comes in requires special supplies, transportation costs, and employee salaries.

The training that HPTC offers is extremely valuable to the parks. About 72 individuals have been trained through the PAST program (Preservation and Skills Training) but HPTC offers workshops and assists with conferences and seminars all over the United States.

Why train individuals to do Historic Preservation? Historic structures have different properties than their modern counterparts. Take a window for instance:

You have wood, glazing, glass and paint.

What kind of wood do you have? They need to identify the type of wood to work with it properly or to locate replacement pieces. Wood has different characteristics that may affect the way you do preservation. Wood from the 1700's is different from wood today.

Paint? Lead paint was used historically. First they need to identify if there is lead paint. Lead abatement may be done which involves staff members wearing Tyvek protective suits, a breathing apparatus and working in containment shed. The removal of the lead paint has to be done by hand and with heat guns. If they were to use chemicals it would change the nature of the wood.

Glass? Historic glass is more uneven and fragile compared to that of modern glass. It breaks with temperatures that increase or decrease too rapidly as

well as vibrations from paint scraping. Replacement glass needs to be found and is quite expensive.

Each Section at HPTC takes into account the tasks needed to complete various projects. There is a Masonry Section, a Wood Crafting Section and a Carpentry Section that can address the various needs a park may have.

Recently the Wood crafting Section was working on Arlington House windows (including the window with Robert E. Lee's Etching) and Harpers Ferry Master Armorer's House (windows and slate roof project).

The Masonry Section worked on the cotton mill at Harpers Ferry. They stabilized the structure by a selection of stones, strapping stones, resetting the stones, raking mortar joints, tuck-pointing mortar joints and mixing the "in-kind" replacement lime mortar mix.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Dates to Remember:

July 4- Independence Day
July 8- 20 Intake Group Activity #4 Admin. for New Leaders / Communication Skills Workshop
July 19- Ann Hebig's Birthday
July 22- Sue Lamie's Birthday
July 30- Gail Mullen's Birthday
August 11- Carolyn Davis' Birthday
September 1- Jennifer Wall's Birthday
September 5- Jerald Weaver's Birthday

Intake Newsletter Staff

Zach Bolitho
Maria Forte
Leslie Newkirk

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Fast Facts on Heat Related Illness

Heat stroke occurs when the body is unable to regulate its temperature. The body's temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails and the body is unable to cool down.

Warning Signs: Extremely high body temperatures (above 103F, orally.) Red, hot dry skin with no sweating. Rapid pulse, throbbing headaches, dizziness, nausea, confusion and unconsciousness.

What to do? Get to a shady area and rest. Remove any heavy clothing and drink cool, non-alcoholic beverages every 15 minutes. The goal is to lower the body temperature. Contact medical assistance if needed.

Heat exhaustion is a milder form of heat-related illness that can develop after chronic exposure to high temperatures and insufficient replacement of body fluids. Those most likely to suffer from heat stroke would be those working in hot environments, the elderly and candidates with high blood pressure.

Warning Signs: Heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache nausea, vomiting or fainting.

What to do? Drink cool, non-alcoholic, beverages, rest and again get to a shady area.

To help prevent heat related illness wear a hat, drink plenty of fluids and rest. Sunscreen also plays an important role through protecting the skin from sunburn, which inhibits the body from cooling sufficiently at high temperatures. Remember, safety first! For more information related to this topic consult the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov.